

March 6, 1963

*Cuba*

Mr. President:

There were 6 U-2 flights over Cuba in September and early October: Sept. 5, 11, 26, 29, Oct. 3 and 7.

There was no usable photography (though one flight was flown) between September 5 and September 26.

You are familiar with the break-up of one planned flight into four at a meeting Sept. 10 -- and it may be wise to break this before Symington does -- he's on its trail. These facts are relevant:

(1) it was a sensible way of limiting danger to any one flight

(2) no objection was made by intelligence operators, and no appeal was carried to you

(3) a post-mortem suggests that at the most, 7 days would have been saved if there had been no such change in the plans.

McG. B.